

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 AGRE-00 /031 W  
-----028759 220840Z /10  
R 181722Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4478

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 5. CORRECTED)

DEPT PASS USDA/FAS/CA/ESCS/POPE/US-USSR SECRETARIAT

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR, UR, EPAP  
SUBJECT: U.S. SPRING GRAINS TEAM (09.0203)

1. TEAM ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE FEELING FINE AND DEPARTED BY 5 PM TRAIN ON 7/17 FOR ORENBURG. RUNOV CONTACTED BY AGATT REGARDING USING JULY 22-23 FREE DAYS FOR TRAVEL TO PETROPAVLOVSK. HE AGREED TO MINAG REQUEST TO KAZAKHSTAN OFFICIALS FOR COMBINED AIR, CAR, TRAIN COVERAGE OF AS MUCH AREA AS TIME WOULD PERMIT. MINAG OFFICIALS AGREED TO PROGRAMMING MINPROCUREMENT APPOINTMENT ON TEAM'S RETURN TO MOSCOW. TEAM'S MEETING AT MINAG WAS WITH BURYAKOV (DEPUTY GRAIN HEAD) AND MONOV (GOSPLAN). TWO MAJOR SUBJECTS COVERED WERE CURRENT SPRING GRAIN SITUATION AND JULY PLENUM MEASURES FOR GRAIN.

2. SPRING GRAIN CROP. BURYAKOV WAS GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SPRING GRAIN PROSPECTS, IF ANYTHING, TOO OPTIMISTIC. ALTHOUGH PRESSED, HE WOULD GIVE NO YIELD OR PRODUCTION ESTIMATES BASIS CURRENT SITUATION. HE,  
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NEVERTHELESS, INDICATED SEVERAL TIMES, IN VARIOUS WAYS, THAT CONDITIONS ARE GOOD. SOIL MOISTURES WERE SAID TO BE AVERAGE OR ABOVE IN THE FALL 1977. SNOW RETENTION MEASURES WERE MORE EXTENSIVE DURING THE WINTER THAN PREVIOUSLY AND WERE CONDUCTED ON 19 MILLION HECTARES. SPRING WAS EARLY, AND NEW LANDS AREA RECEIVED SEVERAL GOOD RAINS. ALL SPRING GRAINS WERE PLANTED BY MAY

26TH IN KAZAKHSTAN AND SIBERIA. SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS WERE GOOD AT SEEDING TIME. SEED BED PREPARATION WAS RATED SATISFACTORY AND FERTILIZER APPLICATION WAS INCREASED. GERMINATION CONDITIONS WERE EXCELLENT. COOL WEATHER FOLLOWED PLANTING BUT TEMPERATURES WERE HIGH IN JUNE -- LOCALLY, UP TO 38 C. (100 F.). WHEN QUERIED AS TO WHETHER THESE TEMPERATURES MIGHT HAVE INFLICTED DAMAGE IN CERTAIN AREAS, HE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. LOCAL PRECIPITATION WAS REPORTED WIDESPREAD IN NEW LANDS IN THE LAST WEEK OF JUNE AND AGAIN IN EARLY JULY. TEMPERATURES SINCE JULY 1 HAVE BEEN HIGH -- UP TO 30, BUT AGAIN NO DAMAGE. THERE ARE NO SIZEABLE AREAS WHERE CROP IS IN POOR CONDITION DUE INADEQUATE MOISTURE OR OTHER CONDITIONS. KURGAN WAS DRY BUT RAINS HAD BEEN RECEIVED. MOISTURE SITUATION IN PETROPAVLOVSK, WHEN ASKED, WAS SAID TO BE SATISFACTORY. ESPECIALLY GOOD AREAS INCLUDE KUSTANY, TSELINOGRAD AND BARNAUL. GENERAL GROWTH STAGE OF CROP WAS INDICATED TO BE EARLY HEADING, BUT CROP IS DESCRIBED AS A LITTLE DELAYED.

3. PLENUM MEASURES FOR GRAIN. EXTENSIVE QUESTIONING OF BURYAKOV AND MONOV ON SUBJECT PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS. NO BASIC NEW POLICY DIRECTIONS ARE INVOLVED. THE COMPLEX OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES TO BE INTRODUCED WILL BOOST PRODUCTION POTENTIAL AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT EFFECT OF SINGLE MEASURES EXCEPT FOR INCREASED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FERTILIZER APPLICATION. WORK WILL, THEREFORE, BE CONTINUING IN IMPROVED SEED VARIETIES, MORE AND BETTER AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY FOR SPECIALIZED PURPOSES, INCREASE IN IRRIGATED, DRAINED AND LIMED AREAS, AND BOOSTS IN TOTAL AREA -- MAINLY OBTAINED FROM REDUCTION OF FORAGE CROP AREAS AND GRAIN PRICING CHANGES. ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN SPECIFICITY IN ANY OF THESE AREAS WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. ONLY A MINUTE INCREASE IN OVERALL GRAIN ACREAGE IS EXPECTED. AREAS IN SUMMER FALLOW, WHICH PRESENTLY ARE RUNNING ABOUT 8 MILLION HECTARES, "UP TO 25 PERCENT", WILL PROBABLY NOT BE CHANGED GREATLY EVEN THOUGH BURYAKOV INDICATED DESIRE TO DO SO. WINTER GRAIN ACREAGE INCREASES ACCORDING TO MONOV, WILL NOT BE RAPID.

4. COMMENT: IT IS TOO EARLY FOR ANY RELIABLE ESTIMATES OF HIGH RISK SPRING GRAIN OUTPUT. STATEMENTS OF MINAG OFFICIALS DESPITE DEGREE OF OPTIMISM MUST ALWAYS BE TAKEN WITH SKEPTICISM. QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF INTERNAL MINAG CROP DATA IS ALWAYS SUSPECT, AS WELL AS SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO REVEAL SUCH CROP INFORMATION. WEATHER DATA FOR THESE VAST AREAS IS ALSO INADEQUATE. INTENSIVE QUESTIONING OF OFFICIALS REVEALED NO CLUES OF SERIOUS

YIELD DETERRENT PROBLEMS EVEN IN LOCAL AREAS IN NEW LANDS OR ELSEWHERE. MINAG OFFICIALS GENERALLY CONFIRMED METEOROLOGICAL DATA AND REPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT SPRING GRAIN GROWING CONDITIONS TO DATE HAVE BEEN ABOVE AVERAGE. SO FAR THIS YEAR ONLY KNOWN POSSIBLY NEGATIVE FACTOR IS LATENESS OF THIS CROP, BUT THIS CONDITION IS NOT CONSIDERED EXTENSIVE IN VIRGIN LANDS WHERE WINTER CAN COME EARLY.

5. TWO MAJOR POINTS MADE ON WORK OF AGRICULTURAL PLENUM WERE ON INVESTMENT RATE AND FERTILIZER. ON INVESTMENT MONOV STATED FLATLY THAT TOTAL 27 PERCENT RATE OF 10TH PLAN WOULD NOT BE INCREASED DESPITE THE FACT THAT INVESTMENTS BY INTERFARM COMPLEXES WOULD RISE. CON-  
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CERNING FERTILIZER, IT WAS MENTIONED THAT MOST OF THE ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF FERTILIZER TO BE DELIVERED TO AGRICULTURE DURING THE 11TH PLAN WOULD BE USED ON GRAIN. THE GRAIN PRICE CHANGE IS NOT AN INCREASE IN TOTAL OUT-LAY OF STATE MONIES FOR GRAIN PROCUREMENTS, BUT

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 AGRE-00 /031 W

-----079513 182208Z /13

R 181722Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4479

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BONUSES AND A COMPENSATORY RAISE IN THE PROCUREMENT PRICE BY THE AMOUNT. REGIONAL PRICE DIFFERENCES WILL BE RETAINED. MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** GRAINS, VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS, AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENTS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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